Stephen – Chris Campbell of Senator Hatch's staff suggested that I contact you regarding an issue related to the miscellaneous tariff process that I recently discussed with him.

I have been tracking the Miscellaneous Tariff Bill (MTB) due to our objection to a duty suspension bill introduced on the House side. Noting that the Senate may soon begin their MTB process, I wanted to make you aware of our specific concern.

The company I represent, Hexcel Corporation opposes a bill introduced in the 110th Congress to eliminate U.S. duties on polyacrylonitrile tow -- HR 2456. Polyacrylonitrile tow is a raw material that is necessary in the production of carbon fiber. Hexcel manufactures polyacrylonitrile tow domestically in Decatur, Alabama and then ships the tow to Salt Lake City for processing into carbon fiber, hence our relationship to Senator Hatch's office.

We have notified the ITC and Commerce Department of our objection to this bill. We have also worked closely with various House offices and believe that HR 2456 will not be included in the Ways & Means package when the House marks their bill. Of course, we are still monitoring this in that the House Ways & Means committee has not published their draft of the MTB.

We believe the beneficiaries of this bill, Toho Tanex of Tennessee will mount an effort to get into the Senate MTB. Noting that the MTB process has yet to begin on the Senate side and the fact that any review period this year will be compressed, I would be grateful for any light you can shed on the following questions:

1. Do you expect the Finance committee to begin the MTB process soon?

2. Will there be a public comment period to formally express objections to proposed duty suspensions?

3. Will bills that are not included in the House version be considered for inclusion in the Senate MTB?

We would be pleased to come in and discuss this with you in more detail if you feel that is necessary. Thanks for any direction you can give us on this matter.

Hugh McGillicuddy
Hexcel Corporation